

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 1 and 7 to read as follows:

ε2
1. A controlled, sustained release progressive hydration pharmaceutical composition in the form of a tablet, comprising:

Sub F2
an effective amount of an active ingredient that is a sex hormone,
a bioadhesive, water insoluble, water-swellaable cross-linked polycarboxylic
polymer, and
a water soluble polymer,

wherein said composition is formulated in a dry state to deliver, upon administration of said
tablet to a mucosal surface of a mammal, said active ingredient to the bloodstream of said
mammal.

ε3
7. A method of delivering to a mammal a sex hormone, comprising administering said
sex hormone via a progressive hydration bioadhesive composition to a mucosal surface of
the mammal, wherein said composition is formulated as a dry tablet that includes

(a) said sex hormone,
(b) a bioadhesive, water insoluble, water swellable cross-linked polycarboxylic
polymer, and
(c) a water-soluble polymer.

Note: A marked-up copy of amended claims 1 and 7 is included in Appendix A hereto.